

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A network services method comprising:
receiving a request for connection to a video content source in a first network of multiple
networks operable to output an information stream;
maintaining a list of available video content sources in the multiple networks, the list
including a unique address for the video content source and at least one
connection rule for accessing the video content source;
determining ~~an~~ the unique address for the video content source;
initiating formation of at least a portion of a point-to-point protocol communication link
between a user device in a second network of the multiple networks and the video
content source;
tracking a metric associated with communication of the information stream; and
generating a billing record at least partially based upon the metric.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
notifying an entity initiating the request of a cost associated with accessing the video
content source; and
accepting a payment input from the entity initiating the request indicating a method of
paying the cost prior to initiating formation of the at least a portion of the point-
to-point communication link.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
receiving a spoken directive from a calling party; and
converting the spoken directive into the request for connection.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

~~maintaining a list of available video content sources in the multiple networks, the list including a unique address for the video content source and at least one connection rule for accessing the video content source;~~

notifying an entity initiating the request of a cost associated with accessing the video content source; and

communicatively coupling the user device and the video content source with at least one point-to-point protocol over Ethernet link and at least one point-to-point protocol over asynchronous transfer mode link.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the metric is connection duration, further comprising:

tracking information throughput;

tracking quality of service; and

tracking peak bandwidth.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the output stream comprises a variable bit rate stream, the method further comprising converting the variable bit rate stream into a constant bit rate stream.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising sending an output request to the video content source, the output request operable to cause the video content source to toggle from a no output state to an output state.

23. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein at least a portion of the request comprises a format selected from the group consisting of a dual tone multi-frequency signal, a TCP/IP packet, and a voice signal.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable data executable instructions to:

receive a request for connection to a video content source in a first network of multiple networks operable to output an information stream;

determine an address for the video content source;

send data including a plurality of connection options to the video content source, the plurality of connection options including a point-to-point protocol communication link connection option;

receive a selection of the point-to-point protocol communication link connection option;

initiate formation of at least a portion of a point-to-point communication link between a user device in a second network of multiple networks and the video content source based on the selected point-to-point communication link connection option;

issue a notification of a cost associated with accessing the video content source;

accept a prepayment input indicating a method of paying the cost;

track a metric associated with communication of the information stream; and

generate a billing record at least partially based upon the metric.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

sending data indicating a plurality of connection options to the video content source, the plurality of connection options including a managed point-to-point protocol communication link; and

receiving a selection of the managed point-to-point protocol communication link connection option.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the request is received at a network management system, the method further comprising retrieving connection information from an information store maintained by the network management system, wherein the connection information includes the address of the video content source and at least one connection rule to connect to the video content source.

27. – 39. (Cancelled).

40. (Currently Amended) A network services method comprising:

receiving a request to connect to a video content source in a first network of multiple networks operable to output an information stream;

sending data indicating a plurality of connection options to connect to the video content source, the plurality of connection options including ~~a connection to the video content source via a point-to-point protocol communication link~~ connection option;

receiving a selection of the point-to-point protocol communication link connection option; and

initiating formation of at least a portion of ~~the a~~ point-to-point protocol communication link between a user device in a second network of multiple networks and the video content source.

41. (New) The network services method of claim 16, wherein the metric associated with communication of the information stream is tracked during communication of the information stream.

42. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the metric associated with communication of the information stream is tracked during communication of the information stream.